

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1090

Honoring the life of Ruth Brown and her copyright royalty reform efforts
on behalf of rhythm and blues recording artists.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 5, 2006

Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. NADLER,
Ms. LEE, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life of Ruth Brown and her copyright royalty
reform efforts on behalf of rhythm and blues recording
artists.

Whereas Ruth Brown passed away on November 17, 2006;

Whereas Ruth Brown, a rhythm and blues singer and song-
writer known as Miss Rhythm, was one of Atlantic
Records' first recording and performing stars;

Whereas Ruth Brown's elegant voice made her a hit from the
1940s onward with such songs as "So Long" and "Tear-
drops from My Eyes";

Whereas Ruth Brown's career spanned the post-World War
II era through the Civil Rights Movement to the 21st
century, a period which also saw the genre of "race"
music move into the American mainstream;

Whereas Ruth Brown helped found the Rhythm and Blues Foundation in 1988 to recognize, promote, and preserve rhythm and blues music;

Whereas Ruth Brown worked with Congress to advance the cause of copyright royalty reform so that rhythm and blues artists could receive deserved copyright royalties from their music;

Whereas Ruth Brown's talent was recognized with a Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical in "Black and Blue" in 1989, a Grammy Award for her album "Blues on Broadway" in 1989, induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1993, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Blues Foundation in 1999;

Whereas Ruth Brown's autobiography, "Miss Rhythm", received the Ralph J. Gleason Music Book Award; and

Whereas Ruth Brown is survived by 2 sons, 4 siblings, 3 grandchildren, and a multitude of cousins, nieces, nephews, friends, and admirers: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) honors the life of Ruth Brown;
- 3 (2) recognizes Ruth Brown for her efforts to-
- 4 ward reforming the copyright royalty system on be-
- 5 half of rhythm and blues recording artists;
- 6 (3) commends Ruth Brown for her success in
- 7 ensuring that rhythm and blues recording artists
- 8 would receive deserved copyright royalties; and

- 1 (4) expresses its deepest condolences to Ruth
- 2 Brown's family and friends.

